

In SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING BILLS:
RAISED HB 6566 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPASSIONATE USE OF MARIJUANA
SB 1015 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Michael D. Parrotta, I am twenty three years old, and I was born and raised in Greenwich, Connecticut. I would like to thank Rep. Fred Camillo and Sen. L. Scott Frantz for taking time to exchange thoughts with me regarding medical marijuana use in the state of Connecticut. I would also like to thank everyone here today for making an effort to allow patients the right to legally access prescribed medical marijuana as a safe and effective alternative treatment to the pharmaceutical drugs currently on the market; for some patients, medicinal marijuana seems to be the most effective treatment.

For the past two years, I have helped patients licensed under Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Regulations program in Vancouver, British Columbia. Last year, Mr. Christopher Burrell, M.S. and I formed The Seven Ate Nine Science Society; a non-profit society dedicated to the research and development of agricultural products and hydro-culture techniques. We have seen firsthand the difference high quality medicine can have on the quality of patients' lives. We have also seen the regulations of a government program that leave patients handcuffed in their efforts to obtain safe and effective medicine. We have seen the government go as far as to interrogate doctors solely because they have recommended the use of medical marijuana to one of their patients. I believe that if a doctor and patient decide to try medical marijuana as a course of treatment, it is the government's duty to protect that patient's right to the prescribed treatment, not to second guess the doctor's decision.

Under Health Canada's current regulations, a patient may grow their own medicine, have a designated grower grow their medicine for them, or purchase their medicine from Health Canada. Recently, our society has been contacted by several Health Canada licensed patients who are desperately trying to grow marijuana specifically for their medical condition because Health Canada does not offer symptom-specific medical marijuana. Patients, who have enough time, space, and money to grow their own medicine, spend thousands of dollars on their gardens because they cannot legally purchase medicine for their specific condition. Without a way for the licensed patients and growers to legally transfer their medicine to a licensed alternative care center, those patients who do not have the time, space, and money to grow their own, have no choice but to purchase their appropriate medication illegally.

To prevent patients' from suffering, they must have consistent access to appropriate medication, especially when dealing with conditions such as Crohn's Disease, PTSD, Chronic Peripheral Pain, Nausea, Anorexia, Chronic Sleep Disorders, and IBS just to name a few. I would like to briefly mention **United States Patent No. 6630507**; titled *Cannabinoids as Antioxidants and Neuroprotectants*; held by The United States of America as represented by the Department of Health and Human Services (Washington, DC), which states that Cannabinoids have been found to have antioxidant properties which make,

"cannabinoids useful in the treatment and prophylaxis of wide variety of oxidation associated diseases, such as ischemic, age-related, inflammatory and autoimmune diseases."

The patent also states cannabinoids have neuroprotectant properties which can limit

"neurological damage following ischemic insults, such as stroke and trauma, or in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and HIV dementia."

We do not understand all the medical benefits of marijuana; however, the evidence of its benefits can be seen in the patients. There is no greater feeling than to see a patient finally relieved of their pain and to see them exude a new found confidence toward their difficult medical battle. Connecticut is fortunate to be able to look to Canada and other states' existing systems to see what works and what does not. I hope my experiences within the system here in Canada can be of help to you in drafting a sensible policy toward safe medical marijuana access in the State of Connecticut. I invite anyone with questions to contact me via email at mike.parrotta@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your time.

Michael D. Parrotta
Vancouver, BC
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